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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

Lake Charles-FDT 1899

Difficulty: Moderate
Trail Use: Heavy
Length: 5.5 miles
Elevation: Starts at 9445 feet, ends at 11,328 feet, highest point 11,328 feet
Elevation Gain: +1936 feet - 53 feet = +1183 feet
Open To: Hiking

Access:

- From I-70 exit 147 for Eagle, turn south on Eby Creek Rd to the Route 6 roundabout.
- At roundabout, turn right (west) on Route 6/Grand Ave and travel 0.8 miles to next roundabout.
- At this roundabout, take the third right onto Sylvan Lake Road.
- Continue 1.6 miles to Brush Creek Road, and take a right on Brush Creek Road.
- Follow Brush Creek Rd for roughly 9 miles to the fork of East and West Brush Creek.
- Turn left onto East Brush Creek Rd., FDR 415 and drive 6 miles until you reach the parking lot and trailhead information board.
- The trailhead is to the right of the board starting at the gate, stay to the left at the “Y”, to the right is Ironedge-FDT 1873.

Trail Highlights:

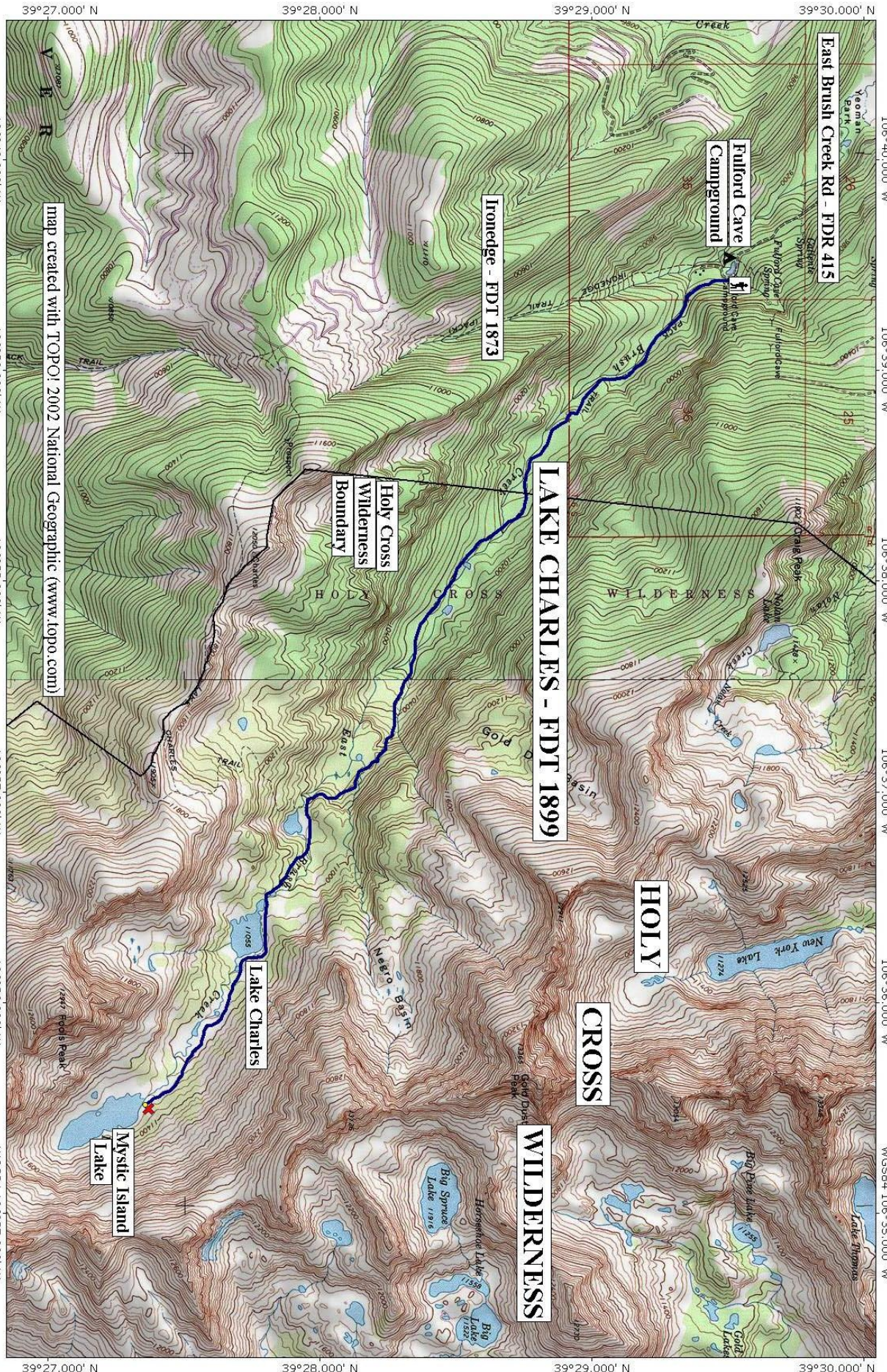
- The trail follows East Brush Creek up to both Lake Charles (4.4 mi) and Mystic Island Lake in the Holy Cross Wilderness.
- It is a gradual climb with grades less than 10% with two short areas that are quite steep.
- The trail is rocky with exposed tree roots and a few stream crossings passing through aspen changing to dense pine, spruce and fir.
- The trail accesses good fishing in three areas: East Brush Creek has rainbow, brook and brown trout, and both Lake Charles and Mystic Island Lakes have Colorado cutthroat trout.
- Lake Charles has a spectacular view of Fool’s Peak, 12, 947 ft. and a classic glacial cirque at the end of the valley.
- Mystic Island Lake has a glacial tarn to the left and at 13,768 ft, Eagle Peak stands behind the lake.

Important Information:

- ALL DISTANCES ARE ONE WAY.
- THIS TRAIL ENTERS THE HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS, PLEASE PRACTICE WILDERNESS ETHICS TO HELP PRESERVE THIS SPECIAL RESOURCE.
- NO MOTORIZED OR MECHANIZED TRAVEL.

PACK IT IN– PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

THIS MAP IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, NOT FOR ACTUAL LAND NAVIGATION. THE WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST STRONGLY SUGGESTS PURCHASING A TOPOGRAPHIC TRAIL MAP AND COMPASS PRIOR TO BEGINNING A HIKING TRIP.



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